

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 15, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 3, 5 – 20, 22, 23, 25, 27 and 28 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 12 – 14, 18, 23, 25 and 27, and have canceled claims 4, 21, 24 and 26 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 4, 21, 24 and 26 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 4, 12-16, 21, 26, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 18 and 23 to include features not taught or reasonably suggested in the cited art. therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-3, 5-11, 17-20, 22-25, and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Anderson*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In this regard, Applicants have amended claim 1 to recite:

1. A digital camera, comprising:
a photoelement array for acquiring image data;
a memory for saving said image data;
a processor in communication with said memory;
a display in communication with said processor for exhibiting said image data;
a plurality of navigation buttons;
a plurality of operational buttons; and
program code stored in said memory and executed by said processor, said program code comprising a menu navigation interface module for allowing a user to select one of a plurality of menu options in response to the invocation of one of said navigation buttons, so that the functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons changes from a first set of navigation button operating functions to a second set of navigation button operating functions which correspond to a plurality of menu functions associated with a selected menu;
wherein one of said navigation buttons is used to exit from said menu.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 1 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Notably, the Office Action indicates, and Applicants respectfully agree, that Anderson does not teach this feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 2, 3 and 5 - 8 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 9, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

9. A digital camera, comprising:
capturing means for acquiring image data;
storage means for saving said image data;
processing means in communication with said storage means;
display means in communication with said processing means
for exhibiting said image data;
a navigation means;
operation activation means; and
program code stored in said storage means and executed by said
processing means for manipulating said image data, said program code
comprising a menu navigation interface module for allowing a user to
select one of a plurality of menu options in response to the invocation
of said navigation means, so that the functionality of said navigation
means changes from a first set of navigation operating functions to a
second set of navigation operating functions which correspond to a
plurality of menu functions associated with a selected menu;
*wherein said navigation means is a plurality of navigation
buttons, wherein one of said navigation buttons is used to exit from
said menu of options, status and information dialogs.*

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 9 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 9. Notably, the Office Action indicates, and Applicants respectfully agree, that Anderson does not teach this feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 10 - 17 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 9, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 18, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

18. An interface method for invoking the operation of a digital camera having a built-in display, comprising the steps of:
selecting one of a plurality of menus in response to an invocation of one of a plurality of functional buttons;
changing the functionality of a plurality of navigation buttons in response to selecting one of said menus from a first set of navigation button operating functions to a second set of navigation button operating functions, such that said second set of navigation button operating functions correspond to a plurality of menu functions associated with said selected menu; and
exiting said menu in response to an invocation of one of said plurality of navigation buttons;
wherein changing the functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons to said first set of navigation button operating functions is made in response to said exiting.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 18 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 18. Notably, the Office Action indicates, and Applicants respectfully agree, that Anderson does not teach this feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 18 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 19, 20 and 22 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 18, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

With respect to claim 23, Applicants have amended that claim to recite:

23. A computer readable medium having a program for manipulating image data acquired by a digital camera, said program code comprising:

logic configured for displaying a plurality of menus, each one of said plurality of menus comprising at least one option displayed on a display, said options corresponding to operations capable of execution by said digital camera;

logic configured for demarcating one of said options, said demarcation representing a user selection of said option;

logic configured for associating a first set of operating button operating functions with a plurality of operating buttons, such that said first set of operating button operating functions corresponds to a first menu selected from said plurality of menus;

logic configured for associating a second set of operating button operating functions with said plurality of operating buttons, such that said second set of operating button operating functions corresponds to a second menu selected from said plurality of menus; and

logic configured for processing a user selection of one of said options;

wherein said plurality of operating buttons are a plurality of navigation buttons; and

further comprising logic configured for exiting said menu of options in response to an invocation of one of said plurality of navigation buttons by the user.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art, either individually or in combination, is legally deficient for the purpose of rendering claim 23 unpatentable. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that none of the references or combinations thereof teaches or reasonably suggests at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 23. Notably, the Office Action indicates, and Applicants respectfully agree, that Anderson does not teach this feature. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 23 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 25, 27 and 28 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 23, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

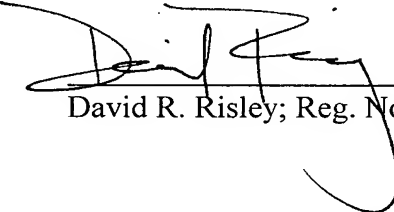
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

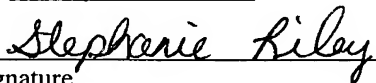
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 9/30/05.


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